Security measures in and around nuclear installations

444. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI RAMA SHANKAR KAUSHIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken high security measures in and around the nuclear installations in the country in view of the International Atomic Energy Agency's alert call about the potential nuclear terrorism;

(b) whether there have been cases of theft or trafficking of nuclear materials and radio active resources in the country during past five years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been no cases of theft of nuclear material from nuclear installations. However, there were a few instances of alleged thefts from hospitals/industrial units of nuclear materials (depleted uranium) and radioactive sources during the past five years. Depleted uranium was recovered in all the cases (3 nos.) and radioactive sources were recovered in four out of six cases. The details are as follows;

Nuclear Materials (Depleted Uranium)

1. Trombay Police arrested two persons from Chembur, Mumbai on May 1, 2000 and recovered 8.3 kg. of depleted uranium.
2. Hyderabad Police is reported to have apprehended two persons possessing depleted uranium. The total amount was 25.9 kg.
3. Police at Kochi, Kerala on November 11, 2000 arrested eight persons with about 2.2 kg. of depleted uranium.

Industrial Radiography

1. In March 1996, 40 GBq Ir-192 source in a Tech-ops-660 camera was stolen from the storage room at the site by breaking lock of the storage pit. The camera was recovered from scrap dealer's shop after a few days.
2. In September, 1999, 74 GBq Ir-192 source in SPEC-2T exposure device was sent to Trombay for disposal. The source was lost in transit and could not be recovered.
3. On May 2, 1998, an Ir-192-296 GBq source was stolen from the storage

at Bharuch. It was recovered from a scrap dealer's shop by Police after two days.

4. In January 1999 an Ir-192 source of 165 GBq activity was stolen from storage room at site. It was recovered by Police after two days.

5. In January 1999 an Ir-192 source of 1.295 TBq was stolen from storage at Haldia. It was recovered after ten days after extensive search.

Nucleonic Gauge

6. In October 1998, 1.85 GBq Am-241-Be neutron source of a moisture depth gauge was stolen from field laboratory and not recovered.

Mobile Phone Subscribers

445. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mobile Phone Subscribers as on the September, 2001 and their number in the five metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata;

(b) the number of cellular operators and their names in the above cities; and

(c) the growth rate of subscribers base in the first six months of the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, as per the information furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators, number of Cellular Mobile Phone Subscribers are as under:—

(i) Total number of Mobile Phone Subscribers in the country as on 30th September, 2001 is 48,07,700.

(ii) Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service are given for Metro Service Areas and Telecom Circle Service Areas. The Cellular Subscribers belong to a complete Service Area and not to a particular city in that Service Area. Bangalore city forms part of Karnataka Telecom Circle Service Area, therefore, the number of subscribers in Karnataka Telecom Circle is given. The subscriber base for Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata Metro Service Areas and Karnataka Telecom Circle (which includes Bangalore) Service Area are as given below: